

REMARKS

In the above referenced Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Forster (3,199,540). He stated, in support of this rejection, "Forster discloses a device for securing a sealing member in a predetermined position comprising a positioning element 40 and a retaining element 42. The retaining element 42 is integrally formed on a first surface of the positioning element (e.g. see Fig. 6). The retaining and positioning elements have equal inside diameters. The outside diameter of the retaining element is smaller than the positioning element's and is beveled. A spacer means 44 or 49 is integrally formed with between two positioning and retaining elements. The spacer has a plurality (four) posts. A sealing member (o-ring) 30 is disposed between two opposing positioning elements."

Claim 1 has been amended to include that the limitations of claims 7, 8 and 9 therein. Accordingly, Claim 1 now specifically recites "...a radius disposed tangent to said at least one of said first surface and said second surface of said positioning element and said first end of said bevel formed on said outer edge of said retaining member". Clearly, this radius is neither taught nor suggested by the cited reference.

Additionally, claim 10 has been amended to specifically recite, "... said two positioning elements and said two

retaining elements and said spacer means being formed integrally as a single piece". The spacer elements of the cited reference include that a tongue and groove arrangement.

Claim 16, the only other independent claim in the case, is directed to the combination of a spool type pressure release valve having an improved sealing arrangement. Such a spool type pressure release valve is not taught in the cited reference.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of Claims 1-6, 10, and 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Forster (3,199,540).

Next, the Examiner rejected Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Forster in view of Applicant's admitted prior art (spec. page 1, lines 19-21).

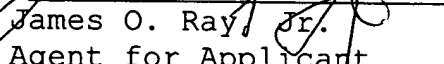
The Examiner stated, "Forster discloses a resilient seal, but does not specify the material. Applicant admits that using nitrile material for a seal provides a leak-proof seal. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the seal of nitrile to provide a leak-proof seal." Claim 21 finds its dependency back to claim 16 which is believed to be allowable. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Forster in view of Applicant's admitted prior art (spec. page 1, lines 19-21).

In view of the above amendments to the Claims and the remarks associated therewith it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-6, 10 and 12-21 are in condition for allowance and such allowance on the part of the Examiner is respectfully requested.

In the event the Examiner has further difficulties with the allowance of the application, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (412)380-0725 to resolve any remaining questions or issues by interview and/or by Examiner's amendment as to any matter that will expedite the completion of the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


James O. Ray, Jr.
Agent for Applicant
Registration No. 27,666

JAMES RAY & ASSOCIATES
2640 PITCAIRN ROAD
MONROEVILLE, PA 15146

TELEPHONE: 412-380-0725
FACSIMILE: 412-380-0748

APPENDIX A

1.(Amended) A device for securing a sealing member in a predetermined position, said device comprising:

(a) a positioning element of a predetermined size and shape having a first surface and a second surface; [and]

(b) a retaining element of a predetermined size and shape disposed on at least one of said first surface and said second surface of said positioning element[.]; and

(c) a bevel having a first end and a second end formed on an outer edge of said retaining member; and

(d) a radius disposed tangent to said at least one of said first surface and said second surface of said positioning element and said first end of said bevel formed on said outer edge of said retaining member.

2.(Amended) The device according to claim 1 wherein said positioning element and said retaining element [is] are an annulus having an inside diameter and an outside diameter.

10.(Amended) A device for securing a plurality of sealing members in a predetermined position, said device comprising:

(a) two positioning elements of a predetermined size and shape, each of said two positioning elements having a first outer surface and a second radially opposed inner surface;

(b) two retaining elements of a predetermined size and shape disposed on said first outer surface of said positioning elements; and

(c) a spacer means of a predetermined size and shape engageable with each of said radially opposed inner surface of said two positioning elements for locating said two positioning elements a predetermined distance from each other, said two positioning elements and said two retaining elements and said spacer means being formed integrally as a single piece.